

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 M-03 A-01 OPR-02 SY-10 OC-06

CCO-00 AID-20 PC-15 NIC-01 RSR-01 /129 W

----- 080547

O P 281530 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4696

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

USCINCSO

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - PARAS TWO, THREE AND FOUR

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EI, PINT, PINS, MILI

SUBJ: PRATS INCIDENT BRINGS ON STATE OF EMERGENCY

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

DEPT PASS DOD, DIA

REF: SANTIAGO 2805 (NOTAL)

1. GOVT DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR SANTIAGO PROVINCE
EVENING JUNE 28 IN WAKE MIDAFTERNOON INCIDENT ON CITY' S MAJOR
ARTERY INVOLVING ARMY CINC GEN CARLOS PRATS AND LADY DRIVER.
ALEJANDRINA COX CLAIMS SHE MERELY STUCK HER TONGUE OUT AT
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PRATS AS HER AUTO PASSED HIS, THAT HE BECAME FURIOUS, PURSUED HER FIRING TWO SHOTS FROM HIS REVOLVER, CAUGHT UP WITH AND VERBALLY AND PHYSICALLY THREATENED HER. POINTING GUN AT HER TEMPLE AND DEMANDING APOLOGY. LARGE NUMBER WITNESSES PRESENT PREVENTED PRATS FROM LEAVING SCENE UNTIL CARABINEROS ARRIVED. AFTER MAKING DECLARATION AT NEARBY POLICE STATION, PRATS PROCEEDED TO MONEDA WHERE HE IMMEDIATELY OFFERED RESIGNATION TO ALLENDE, WHICH WAS REJECTED.

2. STATE OF EMERGENCY PUTS ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES UNDER MILITARY CONTROL. ZONE COMMANDER GENERAL MARIO SEPULVEDA HAS ISSUED STANDARD NOTICE AGAINST PUBLIC MEETINGS, CARRYING OF ARMS, AND ALARMIST NEWS REPORTING THAT MIGHT " PROVOKE PANIC IN THE CIVIL POPULATION OR DEMORALIZATION OF THE ARMED FORCES." SANTIAGO CALM THIS MORNING WITH NO RPT NO EVIDENCE OF MILITARY PATROLS.

3. GOC AND UP MEDIA CONTINUING THEME THAT INCIDENT ACTUALLY " FACIST ATTEMPT AGAINST LIFE OF ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF" REMINISCENT OF 1970 SCHNEIDER CASE. JUNE 28 COMMUNIST- OWNED EL SIGLO DENOICCES " COWARDLY AND PERFIDIOUS AMBUSH." INDEPENDENT AND CONSERVATIVE PRESS, E. E. MERCURIO, TERCERA, GIVING STORY TOP COVERAGE BUT IN GENERALLY RESTRAINED TONES. MORE PARTISAN RIGHTIST PUBLICATIONS SUCH AS PN' S TRIBUNA, WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN NOTABLY ANTI- PRATS, ANTI- MILITARY ENTRANCE INTO GOVT, GLEEFULLY LICKING CHOPS WITH HEADLINES SUCH AS " GENERAL PRATS SHOOTS WOMAN."

4. ARMY GENERALS ISSUED STATEMENT FULLY SUPPORTING PRATS BUT SIGNIFICANTLY DID NOT ADOPT GOVT LINE THAT INCIDENT RESULT OF KIDNAP ATTEMPT. GENERALS CONFINED THEMSELVES TO CONDEMNING " PROVOCATIVE ACTS" AGAINST MEMBERS OF INSTITUTION AND SUPPORTING PRATS FOR ACTING TO PRESERVE HIS PERSONAL AND ARMY' S HONOR.

5. CABINET ISSUED STATEMENT PLACING INCIDENT IN FRAMEWORK OF RECENT RIGHTIST WAVE OF VIOLENCE. PRES ALLENDE, CAUGHT LAST NIGHT BY NEWSMEN, TERMED EMERGENCY ZONE ORDER A MEASURE NECESSARY TO PUT AN END TO FASCIST ARROGANCE (PREPOTENCIA)."

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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30 JUN 2005

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